



March 30, 2012

This Week:

- 144-car ferry milestone
- 87-car Klahowya returns to Fauntleroy/Southworth/Vashon
- Opening of the international ferry run
- WSDOT Extra Mile nomination
- Department of Homeland Security Tour
- FAC executive council meeting
- Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council briefing
- *New York Times*: A Trip Across Water, and Time, From Seattle
- Take a friend on a ferry
- Latest ferry tale: Like Dorothy landing in Oz

144-car ferry milestone

The first arc welds on the keel of Washington's newest ferry were made yesterday by Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen and Rep. Judy Clibborn. I joined Sen. Haugen, Rep. Clibborn, Secretary Paula Hammond, Vigor Industrial representatives and media to commemorate the new 144-car ferry. This construction is critical to replacing the oldest vessels in our fleet. The new ferry will allow us to retire one of the 1950s-era Evergreen State Class vessels. For [photos](#) of today's event and more information about our newest ferries visit the project [Web page](#).

87-car Klahowya returns to Fauntleroy/Southworth/Vashon

The 87-car Klahowya replaces the 90-car Sealh on Fauntleroy/Southworth/Vashon route this afternoon. The 54-year-old Klahowya has been in maintenance for the last few weeks for the drive motor. We are making some operational adjustments for both the 1950s-era Klahowya and Tillikum to preserve the drive motors of our oldest class of ferries, the Evergreen State Class, as they navigate this challenging route. We will closely monitor the situation and report back on any findings.

Opening of the international ferry run

On Sunday, I participated in the opening of the international run between Anacortes and Sidney, B.C. I was joined by dignitaries from both sides of the water for this enjoyable occasion. If you are thinking about traveling to Victoria, please consider making a vehicle [reservation](#) for this spectacular run that hosted more than 130,000 riders in 2011. View [photos](#) of the day's festivities.

WSDOT Extra Mile nomination

I am pleased to announce that I have nominated Captain John Tullis, Captain Bill Chapple and Staff Chief Engineer Mark Nitchman for the WSDOT 2012 Extra Mile Award for their extraordinary fuel conservation work on the 202-car Puyallup. These employees collaborated to identify a way to save fuel on the Edmonds/Kingston route without sacrificing on-time performance or customer service. WSF has since implemented their strategies on other vessels in the system. Congratulations on a job well done!

Department of Homeland Security Tour

On Wednesday, I met with the Department of Homeland Security Under Secretary for Management Rafael Borrás. He was accompanied by Rear Admiral Keith A. Taylor, the Commander of the Thirteenth U.S. Coast Guard District headquartered in Seattle, and Captain Scott Ferguson, Captain of the Port, Sector Puget Sound. I had the great privilege to give the Under Secretary a tour of the 202-car

Wenatchee, with the assistance of WSF Captain Ty Anderson. The tour was a chance for us to discuss the milestones WSF has achieved in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard and to express our appreciation for the Department of Homeland Security's financial support of security improvements at WSF.

FAC executive council meeting

I met with the [ferry advisory committee](#) (FAC) executive council on Thursday morning. The executive council is composed of FAC chairs from our ferry-served communities. All FAC members are appointed by their respective county authority. Today's meeting served as an opportunity to debrief on the 2012 legislative session and issues facing the ferry system, and to answer questions from members. I value our FAC members and this important partnership with customers and community members of our routes.

Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council briefing

I was invited to brief the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council (KRCC) on Tuesday regarding WSF's plans for [Colman Dock](#), specifically passenger-only ferry service. I informed KRCC that our focus is to preserve the aging facility and that our plans will not preclude a future passenger-only ferry facility. I appreciated the opportunity to brief the group and answer questions.

New York Times: A Trip Across Water, and Time, From Seattle

We didn't invent a time machine; however, the Seattle to Vashon ferry is a beautiful trip. The route was featured today in the [New York Times](#).

Take a friend on a ferry

More than 1,000 potential new customers have taken a ferry ride since WSF began participating in the 2012 Chinook Book, a local coupon book sold at select Puget Sound retailers. WSF has attracted new riders to the ferry system by offering a discount coupon for walk-on passengers during off-peak travel times. In addition to the ferry discount, the Chinook book offers a variety of coupons for activities and retailers in Puget Sound and we are excited to be featured. Go to the [Chinook Book website](#) to obtain your copy of the Chinook Book and a discounted ferry coupon.

Latest ferry tale: Like Dorothy landing in Oz

WSF's 60th anniversary is coming to close on June 1, and so does your opportunity to share your ferry tales! Please send us your favorite ferry memories, so we may share your stories with our readers. Read the latest entries: [Like Dorothy Landing in Oz](#) and [Grandmother and the ferries](#). Submit a story by emailing DavidMoseleyUpdates@wsdot.wa.gov.

Next Week:

- Meeting with King County
- 144-car ferry progress meeting

David Moseley's weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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